

The Fourth "R" – Archaeology



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

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"One day we had women visitors with different jobs come talk to us. The one that impressed me the most was the archaeologist. She talked about her many adventures. She also said that anyone can be an archaeologist even at any age. I learned that you should never quit but keep trying harder."

—EDEN JIMENEZ, 5TH GRADE STUDENT AT ELVIRA ELEMENTARY, TUCSON, AZ

Archaeology — it captures our imagination, encourages our curiosity, and stimulates our sense of wonder. Questions about the past engage both our intellect and emotions. Archaeology excites and motivates students.

Archaeology is that powerful "hook" that draws students into questioning and learning. Beyond satisfying multiple state-based content standards, benchmarks, and performance objectives, studying archaeology provides students with a rich awareness of cultural diversity and a sensitivity that leads to an understanding of multicultural perspectives.

Utilizing archaeology as a teaching tool . . .

- ✱ energizes and enriches a wide variety of subject areas.
- ✱ easily addresses curriculum standards in social studies, science, language arts, math, workplace skills, and art.
- ✱ encourages the use of problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- ✱ exercises inductive and deductive reasoning.
- ✱ provides an ideal structure for cooperative learning activities.

For the student, archaeology

- ✱ sparks the imagination.
- ✱ integrates classroom learning and relates it to the real world.
- ✱ provides a link to the past.
- ✱ empowers him or her with the responsibility of protecting the past and contributing to the future.

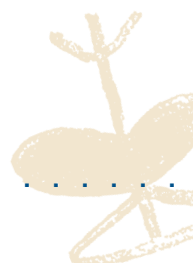
Archaeology is the systematic study
of human culture through material remains.

Did You Know?

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) awarded the Baltimore County Public Schools curriculum, "Archaeology and Critical Thinking," its Program of Excellence award in 1995.

A majority (90%) of respondents in a recent Harris Interactive poll believe students should learn about archaeology and how it contributes to our knowledge of the past as part of their school curriculum.

Above: Students from the Native American Studies class at Challenger Middle School, Tucson, Arizona.



studying

past cultures allows one to examine
and anticipate the consequences of
human behavior and decision making.

Archaeology can be used as a thematic topic to teach subjects from Art to Zoology. Try using archaeology to....

- ✱ draw connections between the real world and mathematics using geometry, statistical analysis, measurement, and/or problem solving.

- ✱ teach ethics and civics through student-initiated research on historic preservation laws that protect our nation's endangered and irreplaceable archaeological sites.

- ✱ formulate and test scientific hypotheses using classroom-based activities that focus on gathering and analyzing archaeological data.

- ✱ bring American history alive in your classroom using recent archaeological discoveries combined with documented histories from Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, Valley Forge, or Monticello.

Teacher's Toolbox

ARCHAEOLOGY LESSON PLANS

Teaching Archaeology: A Sampler for Grades 3-12

www.saa.org/pubEdu/sampler

Archaeology & Public Education Newsletter, "Education Station"

archaeology lesson plans and activities

www.saa.org/PubEdu/A&PE/lessons.html

Teaching With Historic Places www.cr.nps.gov/NR/twhp/descrip.htm

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Archaeology and You www.saa.org/publications/archandyou

Archaeology: The Comic (Johannes Loubser) www.altamirapress.com

Archaeology Magazine www.archaeology.org

dig — the archaeology magazine for kids www.digonsite.com

ORGANIZATIONS

Society for American Archaeology www.saa.org 202-789-8200

National Park Service www.cr.nps.gov/aad/public

and www.cr.nps.gov/archeology.htm 202-354-2100

Society for Historical Archaeology www.sha.org 856-224-0995

Archaeological Institute of America www.archaeological.org 617-353-9361

TEACHER TRAINING

Project Archaeology www.blm.gov/heritage/project_archaeology.htm

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

National Park Service www.cr.nps.gov/aad/public/archvol.htm

Passport in Time (USDA Forest Service) www.passportintime.com

AUDIO AND VIDEO

The Archaeology Channel www.archaeologychannel.org

WEB SITES

About.com Archaeology Web Site www.archaeology.about.com



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